

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor system comprising:

a retractor having a retracting sleeve for insertion into a wound opening and a distal portion including a portion of the retracting sleeve and a distal ring, the portion of the retracting sleeve being attached continuously around the distal ring; and

an insertion tool for inserting or assisting the insertion of or deployment of the distal portion such that the distal ring is located within a body cavity and the retracting sleeve lines the wound opening, the insertion tool including a groove configured to receive and hold the distal portion in an engaged position where the distal ring intersects a primary central longitudinal axis of the insertion tool, and the distal ring extends generally in a longitudinal direction with respect to the insertion tool.

2-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring is of flexible material.

7. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring is of elastomeric material.

8. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool comprises an elongate member having a distal end.

9. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 8 wherein the distal end of the insertion tool has a cutting blade for penetrating the wound opening by piercing.

10-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool comprises an enlarged proximal handle portion.

15. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool has a wound engaging portion with a width of from 3 to 35 mm.

16. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the width of the wound engaging portion is from 5 to 12 mm.

17. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wound retractor further comprises:

a proximal member for location externally of a wound opening;

the proximal member being movable to shorten an axial amount of the retracting sleeve between the proximal member and the distal ring to laterally retract a wound opening.

18. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the proximal member comprises an annular ring assembly.

19. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the annular ring assembly comprises an inner ring and an outer ring, and the retracting sleeve extends between the inner ring and the outer ring.

20. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 19 wherein one of the inner ring or outer ring defines a projection for location in a complimentary recess of the outer ring, with the retracting sleeve located therebetween.

21. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the projection is a relatively tight fit in the recess to grip the retracting sleeve therebetween.

22. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the projection is locatable in the recess in a snap-fit manner.

23. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the inner ring defines the projection and the outer ring defines the recess.

24. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the outer ring defines the projection and the inner ring defines the recess.

25. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the proximal member comprises one or more valves to facilitate sealed access of an object through the proximal member.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring comprises an O-ring.

28. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring comprises an annular disc.

29. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the distal ring is of a resilient material.

30. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the retracting sleeve is flared distally outwardly.

31. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the retractor includes a seal assembly to seal the wound opening.

32. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the seal assembly is provided externally of the wound opening.

33. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the seal assembly is mountable to the proximal member.

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the seal assembly includes a valve to facilitate sealed access of an object through the seal assembly.

36. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 35 wherein the object comprises an instrument.

37-61. (Cancelled).